

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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Department of State

E-45 (61)
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Action
SS

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Rec'd: October 24, 1962
3:16 P.M. R

Info

FROM: Rio de Janeiro

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 882, October 24, 3 P. M.

NIACT.

EYES ONLY

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Department Circular telegram 729.

I delivered English text and Portuguese translation quarantine proclamation to Under Secretary Bernardes at noon Wednesday. USIS releasing at once.

I asked Bernardes whether he could confirm Cuban refusal accept UN observers as reported this morning by Jornal do Brasil. He replied not informed whether such statement made publicly in UN, but Cubans had so stated to Ambassador Bastian Pinto in Havana. Said he regretted Cuban statement not available 24-hours earlier, since it would have permitted GOB to support whole OAS resolution instead of only first half.

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I then stated my serious personal concern at GOB equivocation in assuring us that Cuban refusal accept UN observers would lead to their endorsement use armed force beyond quarantine, while public statement issued last night by Foreign Office heavily emphasized distinction between endorsement of quarantine and nonendorsement of "measures of force which violate the territorial integrity of an independent country and place world peace in danger." I pointed out that such public statement made it harder for GOB to reverse position and to do what they would have done had Cuban refusal position been known 24-hours earlier. I emphasized difficulty in countries with free press maintaining

/ one position

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-2- 882, October 24, 3 P. M. from Rio de Janeiro.

~~I~~one position for outside and another for inside consumption and stated I thought developments likely to compel hard choices for which they had better become ready. ~~I~~

I would like to be in position follow up this line soonest with Hermes Lima. For this purpose require soonest any text Cuban UN or other statement on acceptability UN observers.

I also raised as question very grave urgency Soviet flight permission Recife (Department Circular telegram 674), pointing out that this a matter of continuing concern our part but now of vital importance in view possible military contents such flights. ~~Berl~~ardes agreed to investigate at once whether any request pending ~~I~~

GORDON

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NOTE: Advance copies to SS and SS-O 10-24-62 CWO-M

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